Accordingly, NET or its equivalent examination accredited by the UGC, has been made compulsory qualification for appointment as Lecturer even for the candidates having Ph.D. degree. The UGC has, however, decided that the candidates, who have completed M.Phil degree by 31-12-1993 or have submitted Ph.D. thesis to the university in the concerned subject on or before 31-12-2002, are exempted from appearing in the NET examination. In case, such candidates fail to obtain Ph.D. degree, they shall have to pass the NET examination.

Another station at Antarctica

4441. SHRI K.RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of stations set up by India in Antarctica;

(b) the programmes being researched at those stations; and

(c) the future plan for setting up another station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT) : (a) India has set up two permanent stations in Antarctica, namely 'Dakshin Gangotri' during 1983 and 'Maitri' during 1988.

(b) Since 1983/1988 the stations have been providing requisite infrastructure facilities for accommodating the Wintering and Summer teams and for carrying out scientific research in the fields of Atmospheric Sciences and Global Change, earth sciences, Engineering and Communication, Biology and Environment Sciences, etc.

(c) For establishment of another permament station in Antarctica, necessary reconnaissance survey will be taken up during 2004-05.

Railway projects in Iraq

4442. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) details of the ongoing railway projects in Iraq where Indian Railways or any of its agency is involved, project-wise;

(b) fate of these projects since Coalition forces attacked Iraq; and

(c) whether there has been any change in the contracts of rules since the attack?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) No, Sir, Neither Ministry of Railways nor any of its Public Sector Undertakings are executing Railway project in Iraq, at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Limited stoppages of Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express trains

4443. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express trains have been introduced over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that short distance passengers have to undergo a lot of difficulties because of their limited stoppage; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made to shun away their difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) Details of Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express trains running over Indian Railways are given in the Statement enclosed (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Rajdhani and Shatabdi are fully reserved air-conditioned passenger trains primarily to serve the through passengers. These trains have minimum possible stoppages so as to provide a fast train service.

Statement

Regarding limited stoppage of Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express

Shatabdi Express Trains

1. 2001/2002 New Delhi-Bhopal
2. 2035/2036 New Delhi-Lucknow
3. 2003/2004 New Delhi-Lucknow
4. 2005/2006 New Delhi-Kalka
5. 2037/2038 New Delhi-Kalka
6. 2009/2010 Mumbai-Ahmedabad